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TO : BELMONT, A. H.

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: August 15, 1958

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FROM : MR. F. J. BAUMGARDNER

1 - Mr. Belmont
 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
 1 - Mr. Nasca
 1 - Mr. Corman

SUBJECT: CUBA REBELDE

*FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - CUBA (u)
 NEUTRALITY MATTERS
 REGISTRATION ACT

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Nease _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

Miami informant, MM-639S, advised on 8-13-58 he had received information Cuba Rebelde, Cuban revolutionary organization, headed in Miami by Jose Aleman, owner of the Tradewinds Hotel, Miami, plans to launch expedition against Cuba composed of 200 to 300 members of Cuba Rebelde. It is reported they will land fully armed in Pinar del Rio Province, Cuba, and establish a second front. The informant learned the Cuba Rebelde has rifles, carbines, machine guns, mortars and hand grenades but still needs rifle grenades which would be obtained in about four days. Miami has advised Customs and we disseminated the information to State, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the armed services intelligence agencies, the Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and to Customs here, on 8-14-58. (u)

This again involves possible violations of statutes under our jurisdiction (organizing a military or naval expedition, Title 18, Section 960, USC) and possible illegal exportation of arms under the jurisdiction of Customs. We have an agreement with Customs that if we receive an allegation of arms violation we will refer it to Customs and Customs will handle all matters arising therefrom. On the other hand if we receive an allegation of possible violation of Section 960, we would handle even though it was subsequently developed arms were involved. This case does not fall squarely under the agreement because the allegation which we received first, alleges both a possible violation under our jurisdiction and an arms violation under the jurisdiction of Customs. It is not believed, therefore, that we could insist that Customs handle all phases of the case at this time. Customs, however, has seizure powers which we do not have and can make arrests and seize arms without warrants. In the event arms are about to be started on their way, Customs would have an immediate violation and would no doubt make the seizures and arrests. Our violation would not come into existence until the expedition leaves. While our relations with Customs are such that we could participate in the arrests with Customs, since Customs has seizure powers which we do not have and arrests would be made without warrants on short notice, it would appear inadvisable for us to participate. (u)

Enclosure
 2-1485

RWC:ers

(5)

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REC-88

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 (JFK)

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